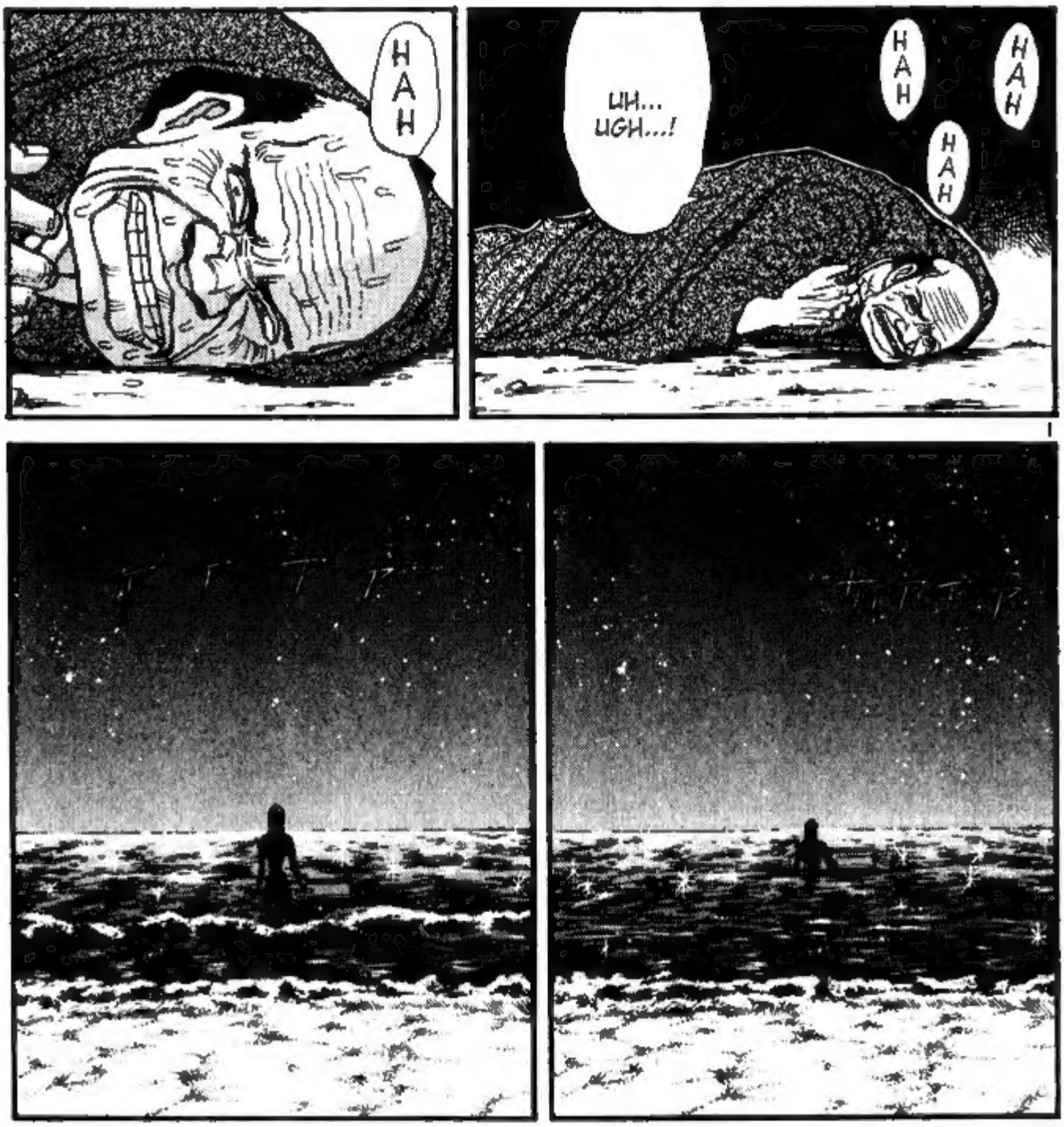
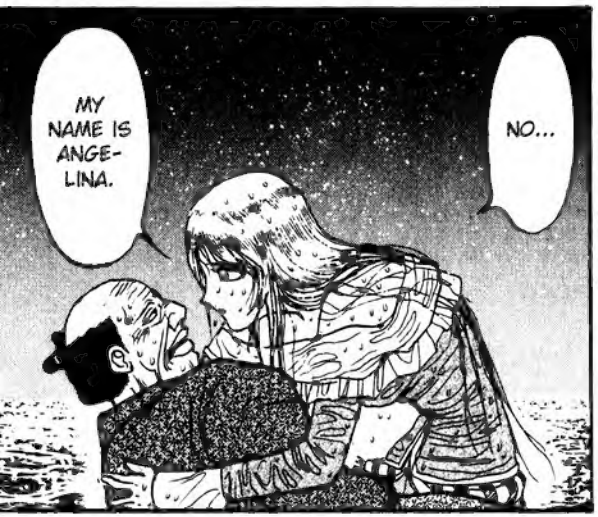
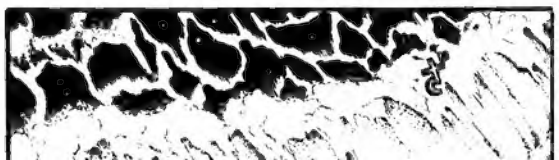
ACT. 13 A MEETING



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ARE YOU... ONE OF THOSE CELESTIAL MAIDENS ...?


NO...
MY NAME IS ANGE-LINA.



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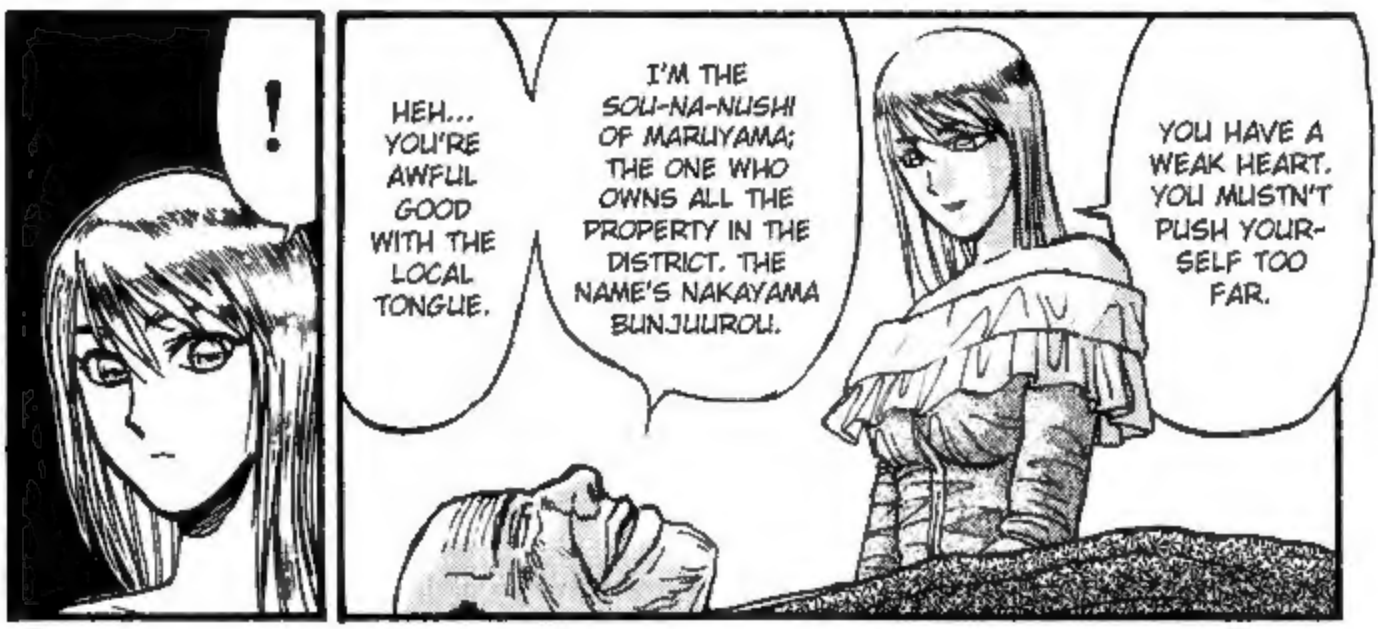
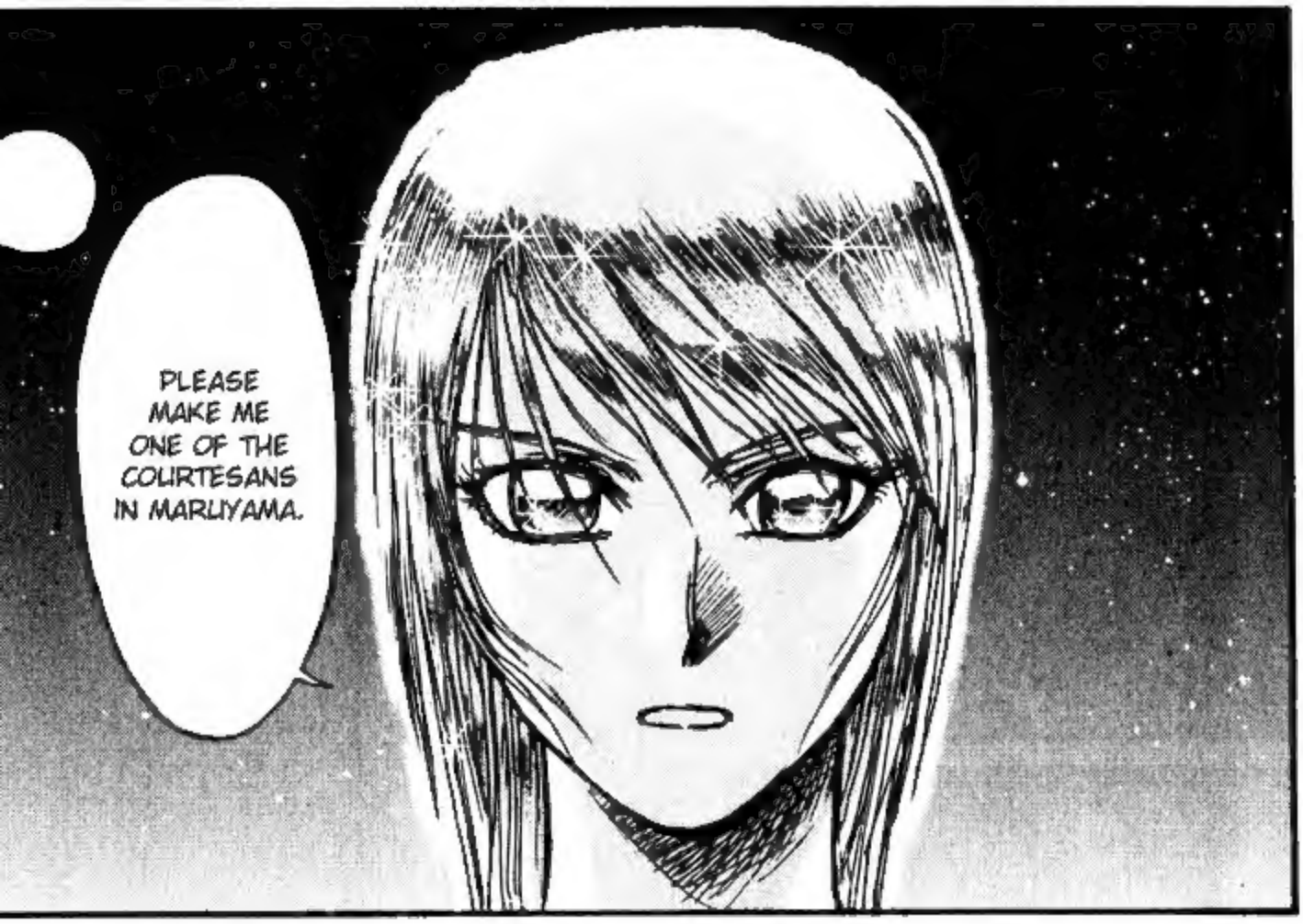

!
HEH... YOU'RE AWFUL GOOD WITH THE LOCAL TONGUE.
I'M THE SOU-NA-NUSHI OF MARUYAMA; THE ONE WHO OWNS ALL THE PROPERTY IN THE DISTRICT. THE NAME'S NAKAYAMA BUNJUUROU.
YOU HAVE A WEAK HEART. YOU MUSTN'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO FAR.

A
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, NAKAYAMA-SAMA.
...THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT IN MARUYAMA... I SEE. THE TAVERNS WHERE WOMANIZING IS PERMITTED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.
YOU'RE A EUROPEAN STOWAWAY, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY. EVEN A BOUHACHI LIKE ME WOULDN'T SELL SOMEBODY WHO'S SAVED HIS LIFE. HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.

* A BROTHEL OWNER



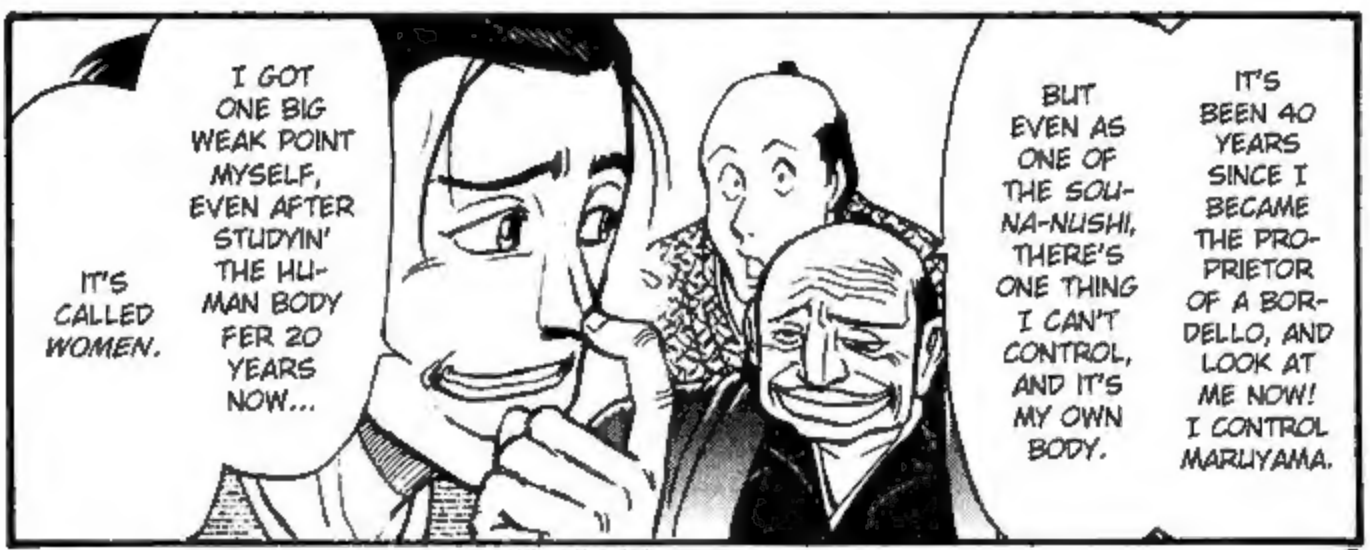
SFX: STRUMMING OF SHAMISEN

SFX: LAUGHTER, CHATTER, GENERAL COMMOTION

SO THIS IS TH' FABLED MARU-YAMA RED LIGHT DISTRICT ...
NOT THAT I'VE EVER BEEN HERE IN ALL MY 36 YEARS.
OH, SHOU-JIROU-SENSEI! THIS WAY!
NEVER WOULDA COME HERE IF THIS WAREN'T A HOUSECALL ONE A' MY PATIENTS.
I MEAN, THIS IS ALL JUST TOO MUCH FER ME.
だっ

SFX: MORE SHAMISEN STRUMMING

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, SENSEI. YOU REALLY SAVED ME.
I WAS SO WORRIED, SOU-NA-NUSHI...!
AS I GROW OLDER, MY HEART TURNS COWARD ALONG WITH THE REST OF ME.
WELL, ON TOPPA THAT, Y'AIN'T EXACTLY IN THE BEST LOCATION HERE.
THINKA ME AS AN OLD FRIEND, AN' LET ME TELL YA: TAKE IT EASY WHILE YA RECO-VER.


IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS SINCE I BECAME THE PRO-PRIETOR OF A BOR-DELLO, AND LOOK AT ME NOW! I CONTROL MARUYAMA.
BUT EVEN AS ONE OF THE SOU-NA-NUSHI, THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T CONTROL, AND IT'S MY OWN BODY.
I GOT ONE BIG WEAK POINT MYSELF, EVEN AFTER STUDYIN' THE HU-MAN BODY FER 20 YEARS NOW...
IT'S CALLED WOMEN.

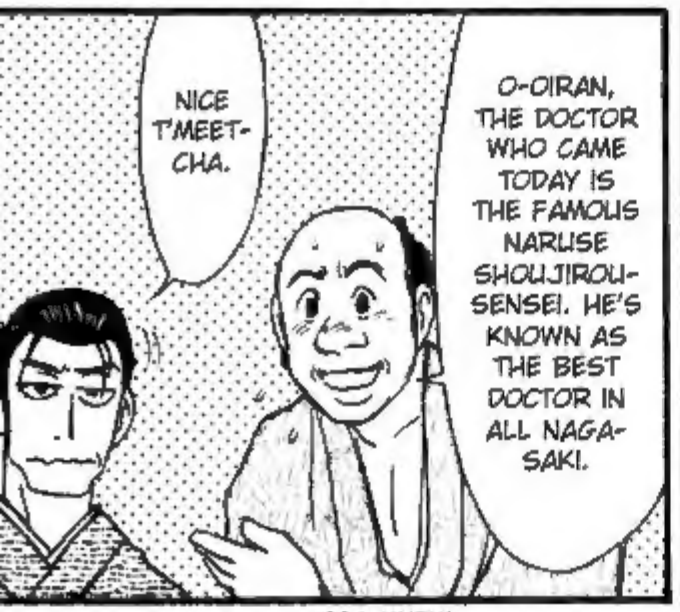
SFX: AHAHA!

PARDON MY INTRU-SION.

おはは
WELL, WELL, WELL.
AIN'T THAT THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH! THE CHARMS OF MARUYAMA WERE TOO MUCH FER HIM, AN' HE TRIED T'MAKE A RUN FOR IT WHEN WE MET HIM OUTSIDE.

OH, TOUNO-DAYUU. YOU'VE COME TO VISIT ME?
WOW... WHAT A BEAUTY.

I COUNT ON YOU WAY TO TAKE CARE OF ME MUCH TOO OFTEN. I'VE CALLED FOR A DIFFERENT DOCTOR TODAY, YOU KNOW ...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, BUNJUU-ROU-SAMA?

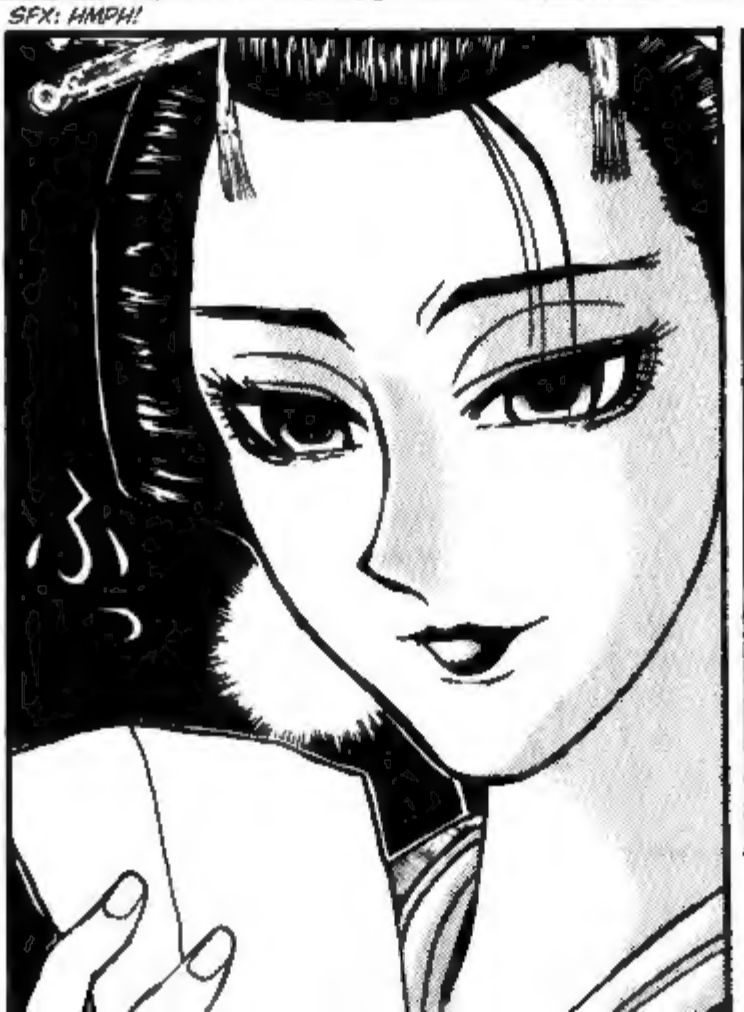

NICE T'MEET-CHA.
O-OIRAN, THE DOCTOR WHO CAME TODAY IS THE FAMOUS NARUSE SHOUJIROU-SENSEI. HE'S KNOWN AS THE BEST DOCTOR IN ALL NAGA-SAKI.

I'VE MADE A VERY PROPER EXAMINA-TION!
OH, NO. I CAME HERE FEARING THAT AN OUTSIDER WHO KNOWS NOTHING OF YOUR CONDITION WOULD FIND HIMSELF QUITE UNABLE TO TREAT YOU PROPERLY.

SFX: HMPH!

9

HEAD CLERK, YOU WILL FIND THE SECOND ITEM ON THIS LIST, RED GEN-TIAN ROOT, QUITE UN-NECES-SARY.



UH... OKAY.
LET ME SEE THAT, IF YOU WOULD.

IT MAY BE TRUE THAT RED GENTIAN ROOT IS COMMONLY USED FOR TREATING INFLAMMATIONS OF THE LYMPHATIC VESSELS, BUT THIS OINTMENT IS ONE THAT WILL BE SEEPING INTO THE BODY QUITE SLOWLY. IT WILL BE MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE IN THIS CASE.
'SCUSE ME...
LEMME HEAR TH' REASONIN' BEHIND THAT, IF YA WOULD.
TOUNO, I DON'T THINK YOU OUGHTA BE TALKIN' THAT WAY. THAT'S THE MAN'S HONOR YOU'RE GOIN' AFTER...
HAD I BEEN CONSULTED, MY PRESCRIPTION WOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER ONE...
IT WILL SERVE AS A PLACEBO, TO BE SURE, BUT IN MY OPINION A PHARMOCOGNOSIST SHOULD MAKE BETTER USE OF HIS TIME AND STUDY DRUGS THAT WILL SERVE A PURPOSE.
Grr...
* SOMEONE WHO STUDIES MEDICINAL HERBS
AND THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF YOUR EQUIPMENT.
THEY RESEMBLE ANTIQUES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN USED 20 YEARS AGO BY A DUTCH DOCTOR.
OH? IS HONOR AMONG YOUR CONSIDERATIONS WHEN IT COMES TO HEALING YOUR PATIENTS, SENSEI?
WHAT IS HER DEAL?!
Grrrr...!
...WELL, YA GOT A POINT THERE...

ギュッ
THESE'RE SOME VERY IMPORTANT INSTRUMENTS THAT WERE PASSED DOWN T'ME BY SOMEBODY WHO DID ME AN AWFUL LOTTA GOOD ...

SFX: OHOHOHO!
おほほほ
YOUR EQUIPMENT IS JUST AS OLD AND OUTDATED AS YOUR MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE!
OI-RAN!

I AIN'T MARRIED!
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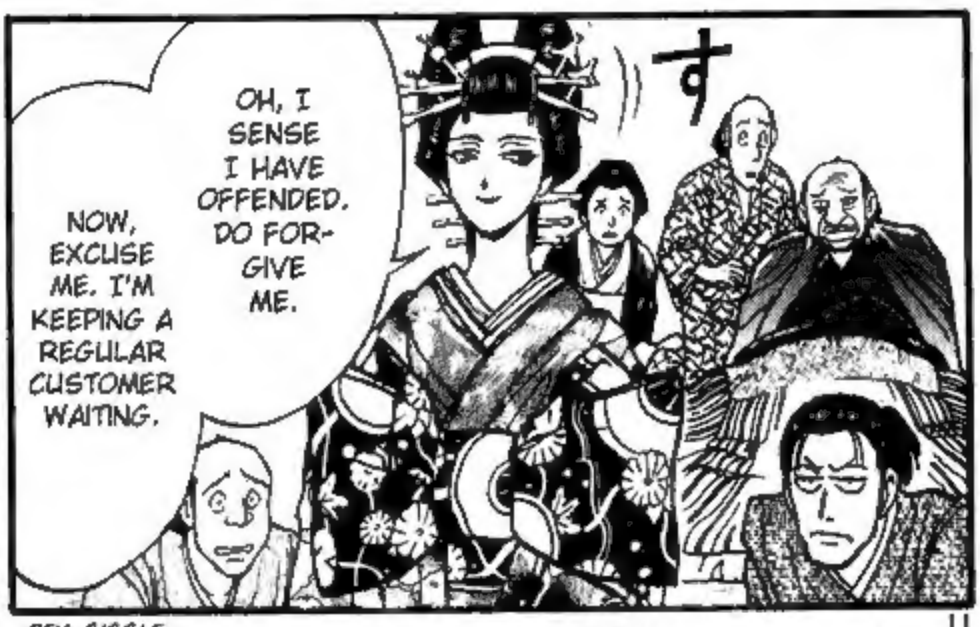
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NOW, EXCUSE ME. I'M KEEPING A REGULAR CUSTOMER WAITING.
OH, I SENSE I HAVE OFFENDED. DO FORGIVE ME.

SFX: GIGGLE
YOU OUGHT TO HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE, TOO.
A WIFE IS WORTH LOVING. EVEN ONE YOU'VE HELD ONTO FOR AS MANY YEARS AS THAT EQUIPMENT.

HUH?
I'M SORRY, SENSEI!
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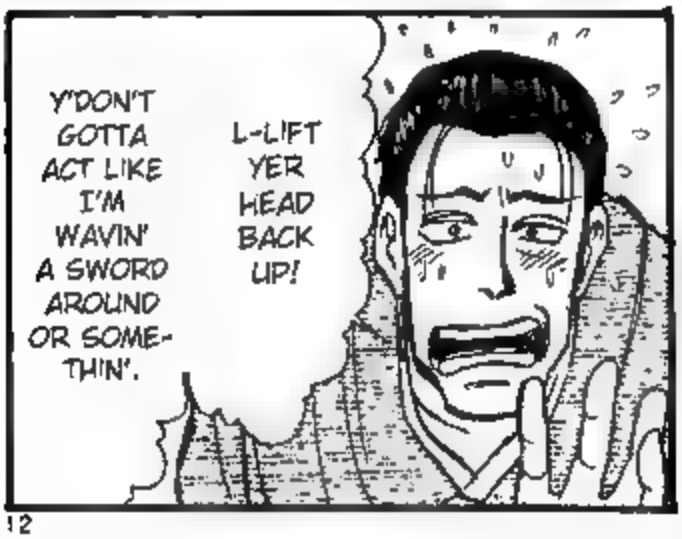
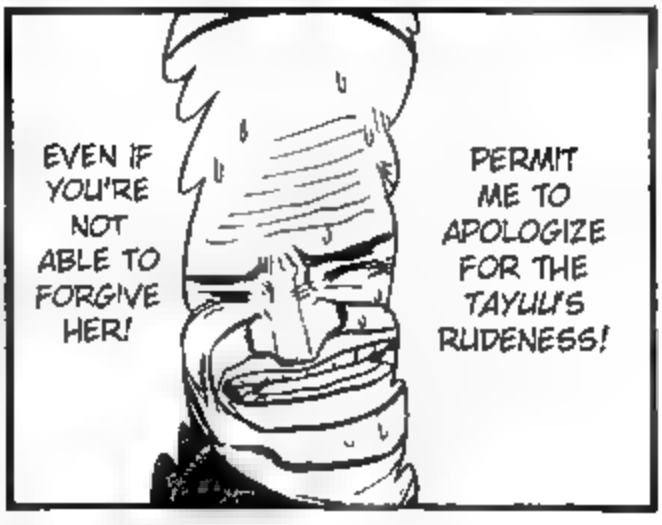
ぷぉ


Y'DON'T GOTTA ACT LIKE I'M WAVIN' A SWORD AROUND OR SOME-THIN'.
L-LIFT YER HEAD BACK UP!


EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO FORGIVE HER!
PERMIT ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE TAYULI'S RUDENESS!

FROM TH' WAY SHE SPEAKS 'N' HOW MUCH SHE KNOWS ABOUT MEDICINE, SHE AIN'T NO ORDINARY WOMAN.
JUST WHO IS THAT TAYULI, ANYHOW?

UH-HUH.
THEN YOU'LL FORGIVE HER...?
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ニコ

THAT SURE WAS SOMETHIN'. IF A SOU-NA-NUSHI'S GOIN' THAT FAR ON HER ACCOUNT, THEN...

EH, WEL... GUESS SO...
NEVER TOLD NOBODY 'BOUT THAT STUFF FROM WHEN I WAS A KID.

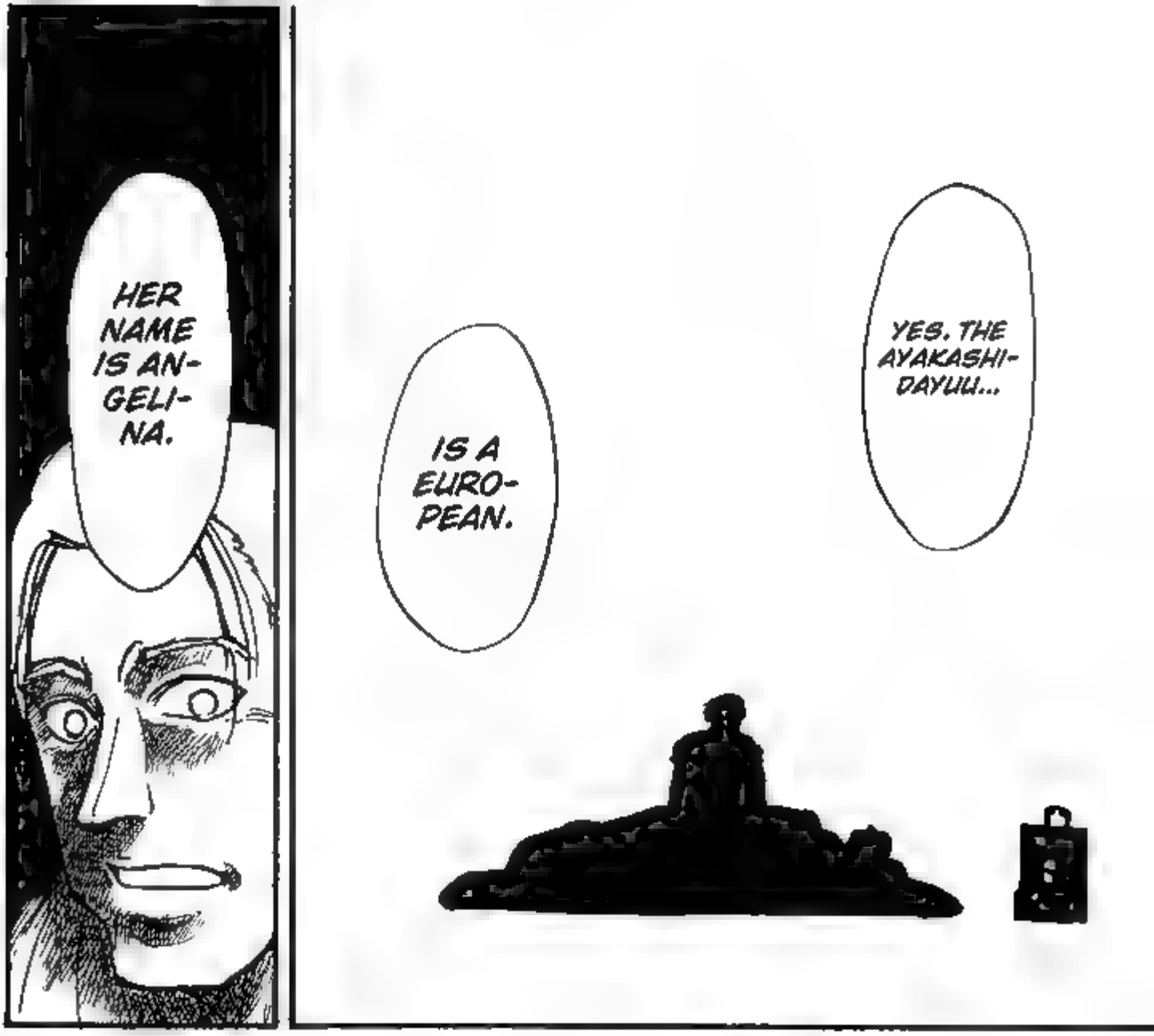
.....
...YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GOOD AT KEEPIN' SECRETS, SENSEI, BUT ARE YOU...?

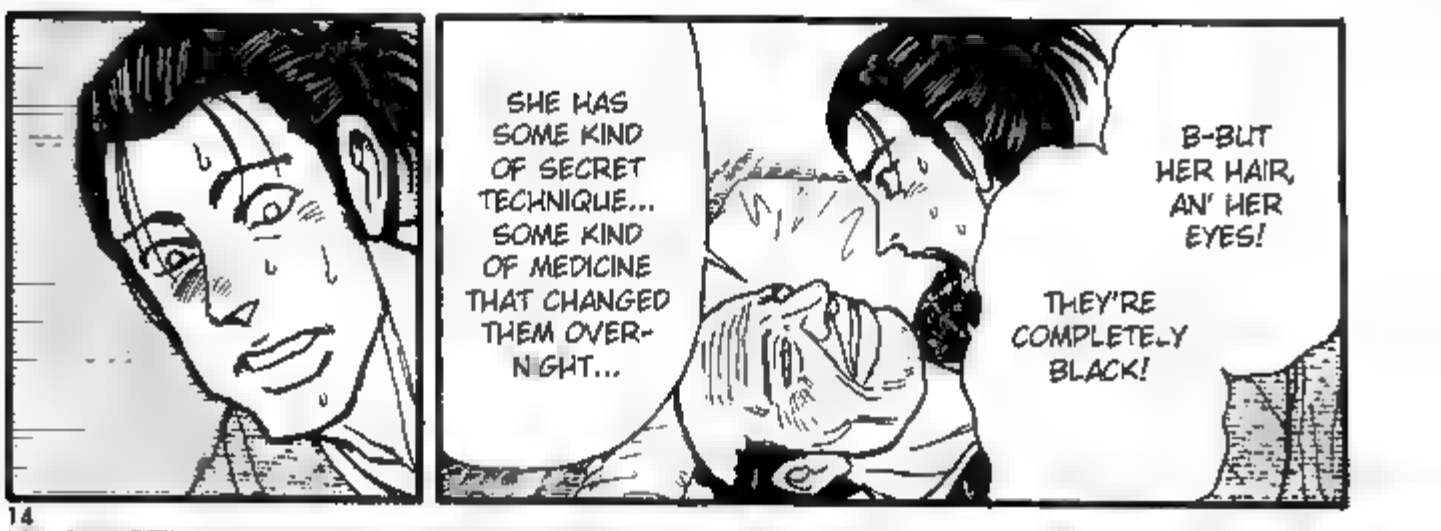
IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE CAN TRUST HIM.

BUT, SOU-NA-NUSHI...!
THE REST OF YOU, CLEAR OUT.

...YA DON'T MEAN ...
HUGE EYES OVER A LONG NOSE... TRULY, THE LOOK OF A MONSTER. YOU LIVE IN NAGASAKI. YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

UH, NO...
PEOPLE CALL TOUNO-DAYUU THE AYAKASHI-DAYUU... DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?


HER NAME IS ANGELINA.
IS A EUROPEAN.
YES. THE AYAKASHI-DAYUU...


SHE HAS SOME KIND OF SECRET TECHNIQUE... SOME KIND OF MEDICINE THAT CHANGED THEM OVERNIGHT...
B-BUT HER HAIR, AN' HER EYES!
THEY'RE COMPLETELY BLACK!

I'D BEEN CALLED DOWN TO THE GUARDHOUSE ABOUT A COURTESAN'S ENTRY AND EXIT FROM DEJIMA, AND I WAS ON MY WAY BACK.
IT HAPPENED A YEAR AGO.

AND I LAID THERE ALONE ON A ROAD NEXT TO THE SEA, GROANIN' IN PAIN
MY ATTENDANT DASHED OFF TO CALL FOR HELP...
I HAD AN ATTACK JUST LIKE THE ONE I HAD TODAY.
I WAS TAKIN' A SMALL DETOUR SINCE IT WAS SUCH A NICE NIGHT, BUT IT ALL WENT WRONG.
THAT'S WHEN I MET HER.
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL UP FOR ME...
BUT . WHAT WOULD MAKE YA HARBOR A EURO-PEAN? THAT'S ...
SHE SAVED ME, THEN ASKED ME TO MAKE HER A COURTESAN HERE IN MARUYAMA ...
HER HAIR AND EYES SHONE SILVER, BUT SHE SPOKE TO ME IN JAPANESE.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT SHE WAS A CELESTIAL MAIDEN RISEN UP OUTTA THE SEA.

...WE BROTHEL OWNERS ARE CALLED BOUHACHI. IT MEANS ONE WHO HAS FORGOTTEN THE EIGHT VIRTUES. BENEVOLENCE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, PROPER BEHAVIOR, WISDOM, LOYALTY, INTEGRITY, FILIAL PIETY, AND RESPECT FOR ONE'S ELDERS... FORGETTING THOSE IS THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN BUY AND SELL WOMEN.
EVEN TH'WIFE OF THE DEJIMA TRADING POST CHIEF AIN'T ALLOWED T'SET FOOT ON JAPANESE SOIL...
A WOMAN... AN' A STOWAWAY T'BOOT... THAT'D BE THE DEATH PENALTY FOR SURE...!
I JUST COULDN'T ABANDON HER.
I WONDER WHY A BOUHACHI LIKE ME PROTECTED HER... DESPITE THAT...
EVEN HERE IN THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT, LESS'N 10 PEOPLE KNOW THE TRUTH ...
THE SOU-NA-NUSHI LETCHA IN ON THAT SECRET 'CAUSE HE TRUSTS YA...
SORRY T'MAKE YA SHOW ME OUT.
HM?
SENSEI ...

BUT IF YA LET ONE WORDA THIS SLIP, THERE'S SO PEOPLE WHO'LL LOSE THEIR JOBS, ME INCLUDED. AN' YOU'LL HAVE EVERY ONE OF US AFTER YER HEAD.
I'VE HEARD YER A SWORDSMAN, AN' YA GOT THE RIGHT T'CARRY 'EM AT YER SIDE, TOO...
IF YA LET ANYTHIN' SLIP T'THE AUTHORITIES, NAKAYAMA-SAMA'LL BE DONE FOR, AN' THIS BROTHEL TOO.

YA KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS ?!
WHEN I WAS A KID, I MET WITH A FAMOUS EUROPEAN DOCTOR FOR OVER A YEAR, LEARNIN' FROM HIM IN SECRET!
LISTEN UP, YA TWO-BIT LACKEY! JUST WHAT KINDA MAN DO YA TAKE ME FOR?!

WE'RE EVEN!
THERE! NOW YA KNOW MY SECRET!
WHY WOULD I GO AROUND BLABBIN' ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE?!
EX-ACT-LY!
I-IF ANYONE FOUND OUT... INSTANT DECAPI-TATION...

Uh, sensei, that's not...!
どすどすどす
DON'T YOU WORRY! I'M NEVER GONNA LAY EYES ON THAT AYAKASHI-DAYUU WOMAN AGAIN!

すう

I'm sorry, sensei ...
WHY WOULD I WANT ANY-THIN' T'DO WITH SOME-ONE SO DAMN RUDE ?!
NOT TO MENTION, WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT THAT WOMAN! OOH, SHE PISSES ME OFF!

'SCUSE ME!
YOU'RE ...

THE... AYA-KASHI-DAYUU...

WOULD YOU COME A BIT CLOSER?
NOPE.

UH?
WAIT JUST A MOMENT.

I HAD THE FEELING EARLIER THAT I MET YOU SOMEWHERE A VERY LONG TIME AGO. AM I CORRECT?

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

Next week's chapter is SFW, I promise.

NOTES:

The original text at the beginning of this chapter mistakenly gives the date as 1840/Tenpou year 11. However, last week's chapter dated Angelina's voyage there as 1841, and the timeline in the official guidebook confirms that her meeting with Nakayama was in fact 1841.

pg. 2, pg. 15: 天女, *tennyo:* heavenly/celestial maiden. Not quite the same as 天使 (*tenshi*), angel.

pg. 4, pg. 16: *Bouhachi* is written 忘八: "forget" + "eight".

pg. 8-9: *Tayuu/dayuu*: The *-dayuu* honorific is the same word as *tayuu*, a title for high-ranked courtesans. The T sound often becomes a D in compound words or names.

Na-nushi were essentially landlords in the Edo period. People rented buildings from them, and a district's *na-nushi* would choose its representatives. In Nakayama's case, he's a *sou-na-nushi* (惣名主) who owns all the buildings and land in the entire Maruyama district. (Nakayama Bunjuurou, creator of the *Mahoromatic* manga, also wrote two light novel stories for Fujita's previous serialized manga, *Ushio & Tora*. The character is most likely named after him.)

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.